(b) if so, the steps taken to help the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir. The overall production of synthetic fibres has been increasing. The production has increased from 9,80,000 MTs. in 1996-97 to 13,79,000 MTs. in 1998-99 and is estimated to be 15,40,000 MTs. in 1999-2000.

(b) Does not arise.

Productivity Gap in Polyester Fibre Yarn Industry

4263. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a productivity gap in Polyester Fibre Yarn Industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the measures proposed to reassess the demands of the industry and assist them for thriving?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The production of Polyester Staple Fibre and Polyester Filament Yarn in the country is steadily increasing from 1996-97 onwards as can be seen from the annexed Statement. *(See* below).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

STATEMENT

(Production in thousand M. Ts.)

Product	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00 (Estimated)
Polyester Staple Fibre	324	431	519	580 770
Polyester Filament Yarn	478	660	703	